

# The Times-Dispatch

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SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 1911.

## A BIG THING FOR RICHMOND.

Fairly good success has attended the work of the committees of the Chamber of Commerce charged with the duty of obtaining subscriptions to the amount of \$150,000 for the building of the Northern Neck railroad. They have found a disposition on the part of a number of the progressive merchants to help all they can, the largest jobbing houses having subscribed \$2,000, and from that comfortable sum on down to \$500 by those doing a smaller business and yet willing to assist in the success of this most important undertaking. Single subscriptions of as much as \$1,000 have been promised by some of the retail merchants, and it is believed that the financial houses will see their way clear to doing something handsome, while the hotels, public service corporations, real estate dealers and owners and bankers are expected to prove their faith in the future of the town by their work for its larger and better development.

The Chamber of Commerce has given the most careful study to the problem. Every point has been safeguarded and approved by the committees of the Chamber and by the full body. The enterprise has received the endorsement of nearly every bank president in Richmond; the Travelers' Protective Association and the United Commercial Travelers are behind it, and it would be strange, indeed, if the community generally were not enthusiastic about it. The enthusiasm that will count, however, is the enthusiasm that will put on the money, and there is more money in Richmond than in any other Southern town.

A statement that has just been prepared by the bankers, Scott & Stringfellow, shows that in February, 1901, the total resources of the banks of Richmond amounted to \$24,257,000. In April, 1906, to \$42,471,000; in March, 1910, to \$53,233,700; and in March, 1911, to \$58,708,700. In 1901, the individual deposits in the Richmond banks were \$11,470,000; in March, 1911, they are \$26,688,100, an increase of \$15,000,000, or 8 per cent as compared with the resources of March 29, 1910; an increase of \$15,399,000, or 33 per cent as compared with April 6, 1906; an increase of \$34,990,000, or 141 per cent, as compared with February 5, 1901. The deposits have shown an even greater increase than the "resources"—as compared with March 29, 1910, an increase of \$3,940,000, or 10 per cent; as compared with April 6, 1906, an increase of \$12,100,000, or 11 per cent; as compared with February 5, 1901, an increase of \$4,325,000, or 150 per cent.

Why not increase both the "resources" and the deposits? The building of the railroad into the Northern Neck would have precisely this result. It would add to the trading district of Richmond a thousand square miles of territory and seventy thousand new customers, customers who would find it easier to go to Richmond than it would be to go anywhere else, and these people would have money to deposit in the banks, to spend at the stores, to invest in real estate, to pay for their accommodations at the hotels and boarding houses and restaurants. There's millions in it for Richmond, and it can all be had by this town upon the subscription of \$150,000 for the stock of the railroad, not one cent of it to be paid until the road has been built to Pamunkey, full thirty miles away, when 10 per cent of the subscriptions will be due, and the remaining 90 per cent, not until the trains are coming into Richmond filled with the people and the products of one of the richest regions in Virginia.

The canvassing committees will resume their activities to-morrow. They are composed of very busy business men who ought to be at their own work, and would be, if they did not take a larger interest in the building up of the City of Richmond than their own wholly selfish affairs. Instead of waiting for them to call, the bankers and manufacturers and merchants and capitalists and hotel keepers and public service corporations and whole-salers and retailers, all and singular, and everybody else who believes in Richmond, should go to them with some such message as this: We do not wish you to carry the whole load, we are as much interested in making this town grow as you and here is the prospect of it: put us down for \$10,000, or \$5,000, or \$2,000, or \$1,000, as we hope and pray and work for the town.

Down in Charlotte, North Carolina, a few of the leading business men of the community recently got together and determined to build an interurban railroad, and in seven days, under the inspiration of the Greater Charlotte Club, subscriptions to the amount of \$200,000 were obtained for the building of a railroad which reaches no new country, is paralleled by a railroad, and are entirely satisfied with

investments because they have faith in themselves and faith in their town. Charlotte has a population of 34,041; Richmond has a population of 127,628. The business men of Charlotte have subscribed \$200,000 to build a road which runs into a country that already has transportation facilities; the business men of Richmond are asked to subscribe \$150,000 to build a railroad into a country where there is not a single mile of railroad track, and where there are seventy thousand people willing, waiting and anxious to trade with this town. The case is so plain that no argument should be required to convince even the most selfish and sceptical and indifferent that the building of this road would be a good thing for Richmond and all its people.

## THE JOHN MARSHALL HOUSE.

John Marshall's house has been saved from neglect and destruction. At its meeting Friday night the Finance Committee of City Council recommended the adoption of a resolution instructing the City Attorney to prepare suitable papers transferring this house to the perpetual care of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. This was done despite the wholly unreasonable objection of the City School Board.

The White House of the Confederacy where Jefferson Davis lived during the War was transferred to the custody of the Confederate Memorial Literary Society in the same way; the City retaining the title to the property as it will retain the title to the John Marshall house, but transferring the care of the property for all time to the Association. This is exactly as it should be, and the action of the Finance Committee will meet with the approval, we are sure, of the City Council and with the approval likewise of all the people of the City of Richmond and of the State of Virginia. The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities will restore the house and make it as far as practicable, proof against the destroying tooth of time, and there will be assembled memorials of the greatest of the Chief Justices of this country, the man who really breathed the breath of life into the Constitution of the Union.

We are very much gratified at the action of the Finance Committee, and we wish to thank it in behalf of all the people of this town for its wise determination of this question.

## THE WHARVES OF RICHMOND.

At the meeting of the Finance Committee of the City Council Friday night, all papers relating to the improvement of the city property on the river front were laid on the table. This was, in our opinion, a very great mistake. Richmond is dependent in a large degree upon the James River, a navigable stream leading from this town to the ocean, and giving the merchants of Richmond the benefits of water rates in transportation.

The property on the river is invaluable. It is fearfully neglected; it should be improved, and we do not understand why the Finance Committee, which is supposed to represent the financial interests of the City, should have disposed of the improvement of this property by the adoption of a resolution declaring either its inability or its indisposition to develop it. The proper reconstruction of the wharves would call for the expenditure of a good deal of money, but the business of Richmond, being in a considerable degree dependent upon the improvement of the James River, any money expended for this would be in the interest of the whole body politic, and instead of delaying work which must be done soon or late the Finance Committee should have submitted to the City Council proper plans for the reconstruction of the wharves and suggestions as to how the work might be most effectively financed.

## NAME AND THE PRESIDENCY.

In his recently published diary, Alexander Hamilton Stephens, vice-president of the Confederacy, a close student of American politics, "wise, broad and tolerant," wrote in 1860 that he could not comprehend why Stephen A. Douglas wished to be President. His reason was that no man up until that time had added anything to his prestige in the Presidency because of the strife that is a necessary incident of the great office. He said Mr. Stephens meant that long service in the House, in the Senate or on the Supreme Court was more to be desired, affording an easier and less troubled life to fame.

This was the honest conviction of Mr. Stephens. He himself was not a seeker of power or was he a man of selfish ambition. Looking backward now, if he were alive, he would probably after only slightly his estimate of half a century ago. The list of Presidents from the birth of the republic to 1860 reveals few men who profited by becoming President. The same thing may be said of the Chief Magistrates since that time.

Since 1860 the occupants of the White House have been Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland, Harrison, McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft. Of these eleven Presidents, who have attained anything beyond a transient celebrity, or added to their prestige by wielding the Presidential power? Lincoln and Cleveland have left their impress upon the history of the nation, but none of the others is permanently conspicuous in the annals of the republic. Andrew Johnson, a really great man and a really great President, was wounded down by his enemies, barely escaping impeachment and retiring from office with great unpopularity. Grant added nothing to his fame by his Presidential service—he really detracted from it, especially when he sought a

third term. Hayes was a negative character from the beginning until the end, bearing in life and in death the stigma of a great cloud upon his title to the Chief Magistracy. Garfield was not the ablest man in his party when nominated, and was one of the dark horses whom Fate has sent into the Presidency. Arthur was unpopular and unknown, a gentleman inextricably fastened to a political machine. Harrison's administration is represented by a blank in the memory of most Americans. McKinley had many admirable qualities, but his association with Hanna and men of like type discounted whatever distinction his achievements brought him. Roosevelt will go down in history a discredited politician. So far, Mr. Taft has done many things to indicate that he will not be ranked with the figure-head Presidents in American history, but even Mr. Taft preferred the Supreme Bench to the office in the White House.

## THE NEWSPAPER AND THE FAMILY.

Last Thursday the New York Evening World printed a story about the elopement and marriage of Miss Elsa Porter, of Washington, to Lorimer C. Graham, vice-president of a lithographing concern in the same town. Miss Porter is a Protestant and Mr. Graham is a Catholic. They were married in Baltimore by Father Gavan, at the Episcopal residence. They ran away, it is alleged, because the bride's family did not approve of the match, but rather favored the suit of a wealthy young New Yorker instead. After the marriage, it is reported that the bride intended to visit her mother, who is recovering from a severe illness, at Lakewood, New Jersey.

This is "going into particulars" to an extent which should not concern the public; but, not satisfied with so much of the story as we have repeated here, the chronicler of the Evening World says: "Mrs. Lorimer C. Graham, who was Miss Elsa Porter, Washington society belle and friend of Miss Helen Taft, with her husband, with whom she eloped from the Capital on Monday, is expected to visit her mother" etc., etc. But Miss Helen Taft had nothing to do with the elopement, is not going with the Grahams to visit their mother at Lakewood, and seems to have been introduced only to make the story a bit more readable. Miss Porter did not elope with Mr. Graham because she is a friend of Miss Taft, if, indeed, she is; did not consult with Miss Taft as to her plans, so far as the records show, and Miss Taft had nothing more to do with the affair than any of the rest of us, who never heard of Miss Elsa Porter before. Why bring Miss Taft into the affair in any way? Why can't the newspapers be decent in shunning their society yards? If Miss Elsa Porter wished to marry Mr. Graham so much that she was willing to run away with him for the purpose, that was her right, and it was nobody's especial business but her own. She is not in public life, she does not hold any office, she was not a candidate for any public position, she is not an expert on the tariff question, she has had nothing to do with the conservation movement, she doesn't know anything about the conditions on the Mexican frontier, she simply happens to be "the youngest of four sisters, all of whom are beautiful girls, were educated abroad, and are unusually accomplished," is a pronounced brunette, and is especially noted for the beauty of her eyes, and her elopement has "created a decided stir in Washington smart society," and she is "a friend of Miss Helen Taft," who doesn't belong to Washington smart society.

The story is illustrated by the Evening World with a photograph of the young woman, a very good picture, doubtless, because it makes her look as if she is really very charming, but why, in the name of Solomon, or Seitz, which is very much the same thing, should all this stuff be printed about her and her own private and personal affairs, and particularly, why should Miss Helen Taft have been put into the picture at all? There ought to be a line somewhere that even the most "enterprising" of newspapers should not cross, and that line should be drawn hard and fast where the family begins and the public ends.

Only the other day, a weekly "Society" journal in New York printed a story that Mrs. Grover Cleveland was to be married to Dean West of Princeton University, and a day or so later the "Society" journal printed a "correction" to the effect that it had told him, as Dean West is already a married man, and is living at Princeton now with his wife and daughter. The reason for printing the story is that Mrs. Cleveland is Mrs. Cleveland, and a splendid woman, of fine distinction, and only a few years ago was the charming mistress of the White House. There ought to be a line drawn that even the "Society" reporters cannot cross, and if the newspapers will not draw this line for themselves, the Law should draw it for them.

NONSENSE FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE.  
 The Manchester (New Hampshire) Union harks back occasionally to the days beyond the flood. It has been moved by the recent unfortunate experience of Booker Washington in New York to indulge in some comments upon this situation. Because of the greatness of Washington it imagines that the assault made upon him by a capitalist and dog fancier in New York City will not affect his standing or his usefulness. We hope sincerely that it will not, but it must be admitted that there has been much unfavorable comment upon the subject all over the country and particularly in the South. "Dred Scott" was a humiliated servant, but the decision of the Washington is the President of the foremost college in America, and because of the unprovoked assault made

upon him every negro in the country will find himself more secure in his life and in his rights as a citizen for all time to come.

That is an idle sort of statement, and it does not mean anything at all. What Booker Washington needs is not mass meetings by the negroes, but the honest and helpful support of the white people of the country. Besides, we would say that the only part of the country in which the negro is secure in his life is in the South. We say this, notwithstanding the outrageous crimes against him that have been committed in this part of the country, and because we know, as Booker Washington knows, and has said over and over, that the best friends of the negro are among the white people of the South. His safest plan hereafter, it would seem, would be to stay with his own folks down South. Of course, the mails and the express companies are within ready reach of his financial backers up North and there need be no intermission in their contributions for his work, but as for himself personally he would find it safer to stay at home.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT "SUZANNE."

"Billie Burke" played "Suzanne" at the Academy in Richmond three times yesterday and the day before, and, it goes without saying, that she played it well, as she is one of the most taking of the actors now on the American stage; but why did she play it, why should anybody play it, here or anywhere else?

The scene is laid in Belgium; the play, as Douglas Gordon, who is not a bit squeamish, says, "is not a play for children, but grown-ups will hardly object to it." Why not? Why should grown-up, decent people not object to a play which they would not be willing for their children to see? The "comedy" is light, of the purest and simplest form of fun, and of broad-minded, continental, spade-calling realism. In addition, the play is "bald" and "brazen," "everything that is hinted is openly said." Why not let the children see a thing like that? What is good for the goose and the ganders should not be bad for the goslings; what is pure and sweet enough for the parents should not be forbidden to the dear little children. Yet, we are told, that "Billie Burke" was utterly charming and winning, even if her gowns were a bit tired, "and one of the biggest and best-dressed houses of the season welcomed her and finished by adoring her."

The children should insist upon the "grown-ups" telling them all about it, what was said and what was meant and how it was said and why. Surely, the "grown-ups" would not be willing to tell their children that they would attend a play that was so bad that they would not care to talk about it at home! This is one time that the "babes and sucklings" might teach the older, and presumably wiser, sort a thing or two; they ought to know. We would suggest that this evening, when all the family is at the supper table, that the boys and girls ask their fathers and mothers what it was all about.

## FOUR DAYS FOR "FITTING."

Converse College, at Spartanburg, South Carolina, has found a new wrinkle in female education by adopting what are called "dressmaking holidays," of which there are four, when all the college exercises are suspended in order that the young women who have been sent there may have their dresses fitted. This is a new kink, but it is a very good kink, and it might be well if all other female colleges in the country should adopt the same plan.

All the dressmakers and milliners in Spartanburg are working on forced draft just now. Many of the girls attending Converse are not overstocked with this world's goods and cannot order their gowns from "Ray Parée," but there is no reason in the world, now that Edward Bok and the other men milliners help with wise suggestions, why the frocks of the girls at Converse, whatever the material employed in their construction, should not look as well as if they were built of the finest fabrics.

We like the sunbunner style, at one time so prevalent in Spartanburg. No headgear that was ever built touches it as a setting for a pretty face, but, of course, we all recognize that sunbunners are out of style, and that is enough. Therefore, we have skyscrapers and rats and dead birds' wings and other things that make the girls look more like the infants of the plains than the sweet angels of the home, and the authorities of Converse College can't help themselves, and so it is that Fashion reigns in Spartanburg.

## THE WORD OF GOD.

(Selected for The Times-Dispatch.)  
 "Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it"—St. Luke xi, 28.

Many of us, in fact all of us born of Christian parents and now some even of heathen birth, are privileged to hear the word of God from the time we can first understand, and we go on hearing it, but we do not take it with us in our daily lives as Christ meant we should when He uttered these words of our text.

Let us consider what it means to hear the word of God and keep it. We hear it in church on Sunday, or even to read for ourselves the blessed Scriptures, does not necessarily mean that we try to take it with us and let it influence every act of our lives, and yet this is what God would have us do in order that we may receive His blessing, and as a final result dwell with Him through eternity.

How often we hear some one say: "I try to do the best I can, I give what I feel I am able to charity, I go to church every Sunday, and I think I'm as good a Christian as most people I know who make much more of a show of religion." But hearing and

keeping God's word means far more than this if faithfully accomplished. It is the very weaving of His word, or command, into the texture and fibre of our lives, so that one cannot be separated from the other.

The way of keeping these blessed words differs for each of us, even as our vocations in life differ, but of each of us is the same result required, and if we are seeking the goal our underlying and chief aim will be the same. The man goes forth to his work, whatever it may be or wherever it may take him, each day with his opportunity ever before him to be Christ's servant or His enemy. There is no in-between result. So many of us think that the "little sins" do not count because they are not known. They are known, though, to God, and the man who in his daily work keeps God's word, will so live that at the end of the day, without his having made any ostentatious profession of religion, all who have come in contact with him will have felt the Christian influence and been benefited by it. If when all the small vexations of a busy downtown life come he can only remember they are all permitted by God, and that the way to gain spiritual growth and strength is to conquer and surmount these worries by praying to God for grace, he will not only gain this strength for himself, but for those he has been thrown with. None of us can approximate the number of opportunities we have to influence our fellow men and how often we lose a chance to help them, just by example.

The woman at the head of her household has a little world of her own to help or to hinder, and she can help each member of this household to be God's servant if she will only realize her responsibility. The teacher, who is with his or her scholars each day, is given by God a great field in which to labor for Him and to show these children how to keep His commands. And even the little children, themselves in their turn have their opportunities and responsibilities according to their ability. That character will grow as their desire to be followers of Christ is earnestly cultivated and trained by their parents and instructors, so we can plainly see there is no one in this world free from the responsibility of his or her example as it may affect others, and that example will be the outcome of the life led as seen by God, who knoweth the secret of all our hearts. Let us "having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith, or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation; he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; contributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you; bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate." These words of St. Paul in his Epistle to the Romans bring just the same message to each of us to-day, and give us, if we will only try to follow them, the best guide we can have to help us hear God's word and keep it.

Lecturer Sullivan, of Brooklyn, has been making some observations on the subject of hell. He has reached the conclusion that there is no such place, and we are told by the Houston Post that the people of that town who have not traveled stoutly maintain this view. "But," says the irreverent Bailey, of the Houston paper, who is sure to get what is coming to him soon or late, "we have been to Chicago, and one time we had a ticket to Charleston, but circumstances have been making some observations on the subject of hell. He has reached the conclusion that there is no such place, and we are told by the Houston Post that the people of that town who have not traveled stoutly maintain this view. "But," says the irreverent Bailey, of the Houston paper, who is sure to get what is coming to him soon or late, "we have been to Chicago, and one time we had a ticket to Charleston, but circumstances have been making some observations on the subject of hell. 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